

Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC, UR (BENNET, DOUGLAS)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CONGRESSIONAL SPEAKER DOUGLAS BENNET

REF: 75 USIA 23672 CIRCULAR

1. SUMMARY: DOUGLAS BENNET, JR., STAFF DIRECTOR, US SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE, VISITED MOSCOW AS EMBASSY GUEST JANUARY SEVEN TO TEN TO SPEAK ON US ECONOMY AND CONGRESS TO SOVIET ECONOMIC AND AMERICAN STUDIES EXPERTS. FORMAL TALKS AND SMALL-SCALE SOCIAL EVENTS PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES TO FURTHER US-SOVIET COMMUNICATION ON THESE ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. BENNET'S PROGRAM BEGAN JANUARY EIGHT, 1976 WITH MORNING MEETING AT USA INSTITUTE WHERE HE GAVE TALK ON US ECONOMIC RECOVERY CHOICES AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN CONGRESS. HE STRESSED ROLE OF NEW BUDGET COMMITTEES IN ALLOWING CONGRESS TO DETERMINE OVERALL SPENDING PRIORITIES AND PLAN FOR FUTURE. ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY, HE DESCRIBED NARROW RANGE OF RECOVERY CHOICES IN VIEW PRESENT CONSERVATIVE MOOD OF US PUBLIC PROHIBITING GOVERNMENT FROM SPENDING ITS WAY OUT OF RECESSION. AUDIENCE OF FORTY SPECIALISTS (INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF GOSPLAN, THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION) CLOSELY

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QUESTIONED HIM ON DETAILS IN HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION FOLLOWING

TALK.

3. AT LUNCH HOSTED BY P&C COUNSELOR, FOR USA INSTITUTE DEP. DIR. AND HEAD OF ECONOMIC SECTION AND EDITOR INSTITUTE PUBLICATION "USA", US-SOVIET RELATIONS WERE MAIN TOPIC WITH EMPHASIS ON ROLE OF CONGRESS, MFN, JEWISH MIGRATION AND ANGOLA. BENNET CITED SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA AS EXTREMELY SERIOUS ISSUE POLLUTING CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD USSR.

4. AFTERNOON DISCUSSION CONTINUED AT INSTITUTE WITH DIVISION CHIEFS AND COVERED ABOVE TOPICS IN GREATER DETAIL. INSTITUTE'S RESPECT FOR BENNET'S VIEWS REFLECTED IN ITS INVITATION TO HIM TO RETURN FOR PERIOD OF SEVEN - TEN DAYS AS INSTITUTE GUEST.

5. DINNER HOSTED BY P&C COUNSELOR FOR BENNET INCLUDED GUESTS FROM USA INSTITUTE, GOSPLAN AND INSTITUTE FOR WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (IMEMO) TOGETHER FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ABOVE TOPICS.

6. MFN AND CONGRESS'S ROLE IN US/SOV RELATIONS WAS MAIN TOPIC AT BENNET LUNCH JANUARY NINE HOSTED BY DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, STATE COMMITTEE FOR RADIO AND TV AND HIS DEPUTY. AFTERNOON MEETING AT IMEMO FEATURED BENNET TALK ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND CONGRESSIONAL INSTITUTIONAL REFORM. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION REVEALED IMEMO SPECIALISTS MORE DOCTRINAIRE AND LESS INFORMED US REALITIES THAN USA INSTITUTE.

7. BENNET WAS WELL RECEIVED BY ALL SOV PARTICIPANTS. HE IS INFORMATIVE, DIRECT AND PERSONABLE AND HIS VISIT WAS UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS IN SUPPORTING POST'S OBJECTIVE TO INCREASE COMMUNICATION ON THESE TOPICS. MATLOCK

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